

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES MIGRATION & REFUGEE SERVICES

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### Where are Refugees From?



## ERITREA

### Historical Background

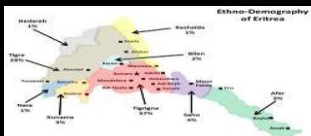
- Italian Colonialism
- Second World War
- British Protectorate
- Confederation with Ethiopia
- Liberation war/movement
- Independence
- Unmet expectations

## NINE ETHNIC GROUPS IN ERITREA



## ERITREAN DEMOGRAPHICS

### Ethnography of Eritrea



## ERITREA

- A. Current political environment
  - A. Unresolved Ethio/Eritrean conflict
  - A. Mandatory Military Conscription
  - A. Ethnic divisions
  - A. Political unrest
  - A. Religious persecution

## ERITREAN REFUGEE IN USA

- Relevant cultural issues
- Language issues to be aware of
- Expected challenges
- Their expectations/demands

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

### DRC HISTORY

#### Colonial Era (1877-1960)

1870s: King Leopold II of Belgium begins colonial project in central Africa

1885: King Leopold II formally acquires Congo territory as his own private property, naming it Congo Free State

1885-1908: Leopold and his army terrorize inhabitants in pursuit of resources. An estimated 10 million Congolese, half the population, died as consequence of exploitation and disease

1908: Belgian parliament takes over Congo Free State from Leopold, renaming it Belgian Congo

1959: Major nationalist riots in the capital threaten Belgium's control over Belgian Congo territory



## DRC

### Independence and political crisis (1960-1971)

May 1960: Mouvement National Congolais (MNC) party wins parliamentary elections. Patrice Lumumba becomes prime minister, Joseph Kasavubu is elected President.

June 30, 1960: Belgian Congo gains independence, becoming Republic of Congo.

January 17, 1961: Patrice Lumumba is executed by forces from Katanga province backed by Belgium.

1965: Joseph-Désiré Mobutu overthrows Kasavubu in a Western-backed coup and establishes a one-party system.

1965: Mobutu changes the country's official name to "Democratic Republic of Congo" to distinguish it from the former French colony "Republic of Congo".

1965: Mobutu changes the name of the capital from Leopoldville to Kinshasa, and renames several other cities as well.

1971: Mobutu renames the country "Zaire" and changes his own name to Mobutu Sese Seko.



## DRC

### The DRC: Population & Language

- Population of over 66 million, the 4<sup>th</sup> most populous in Africa
- Over 200 ethnic groups
  - Majority: Bantu
  - Minorities: Hamitic, Nilotic and Pygmies
- 242 local languages and dialects are spoken
- 4 national languages: Kikongo, Lingala, Tshiluba and Swahili
- Official language: French

## DRC

### Language Groups in DRC



## DRC

### The DRC: Religion & Culture

- 95% of the population is Christian, 2% are animist, 1.5% are Muslim, 0.5% are Kimbanguist
- Culture reflects diversity of hundreds of ethnic groups and their differing ways of life throughout the country
- Well-known for music (e.g. soukous—combination of traditional music, Cuban rumba and merengue)
- Art includes masks and wooden statues

## DRC

## Return to DRC (1997-2001)

1990: Rwandan forces invade Congo to protect Tutsi and destroy Hutu militia camps. Mobutu's government opposes the invasion, prompting rebel elements to unite against him.

May 1997: Anti-Mobutu rebels, backed by Rwanda, seize Kinshasa and expel Laurent Kabila, ex-president. The country is renamed again to 'Democratic Republic of Congo'.

June 1997: President Kabila calls for withdrawal of all Rwandan and Ugandan forces from the country.

August 1998: Rebels back by Rwanda and Uganda rise up against Kabila and take control of much of western DRC. Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Angola send troops to repel the rebels.

July 1999: Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Angola, and DRC sign peace accord in Lusaka, Zambia.

August 1999: MLC and RDC rebels sign Luanda accord.

November 30, 1999: UN Security Council sets up 5,500-strong force to monitor and mediate forces at MONUC. Fighting continues between rebel and government forces, and between Rwandan and Ugandan-backed forces.

January 2001: Laurent Kabila assassinated by bodyguards, succeeded by his son Joseph Kabila.



## Conflict in DRC and Refugees

- Conflict has caused thousands of Congolese from eastern DRC to flee to Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia
- Thousand of Tutsi Congolese have sought refuge in Rwanda and Burundi
- In 2006, UNHCR facilitated voluntary repatriation of Congolese from refugee camps in Tanzania
- Thousands of Congolese gain resettlement in USA and Canada

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## CONGOLESE REFUGEES IN USA

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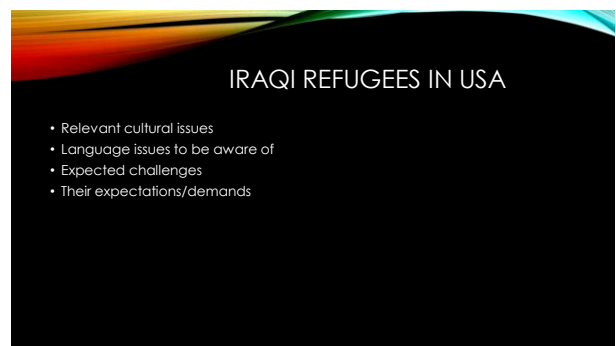
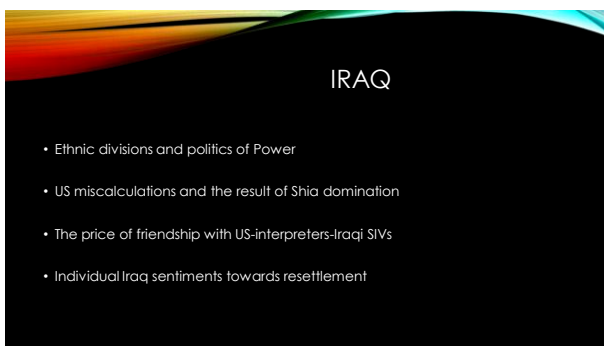
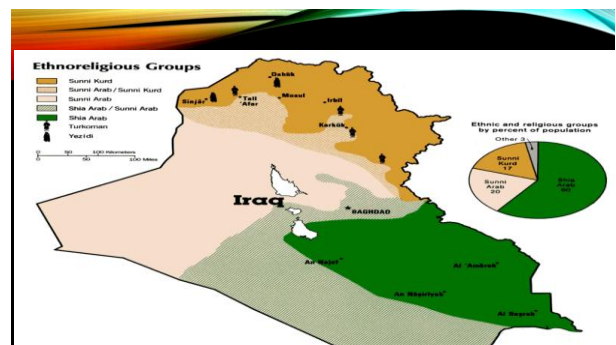
## IRAQ



Surrounded by British officials,  
Faisal is proclaimed King of Iraq (1921)

## IRAQ





## AFGHANISTAN



## AFGHANISTAN

- Saur Revolution of 1978 (Communist insurrection)
- Soviet War in Afghanistan (1979-1989)
- Civil War in Afghanistan (1989-92) and Collapse of communist government
- 1996-2001 Taliban controlled Afghanistan
- The Northern Alliance and US
- 2001-present western involvement

## AFGHAN SIV PROGRAM

- More than 13,000 who worked for USA
- More than 70% have worked as interpreters
- More SIVs were issued in FY 2014 than in all previous years combined
- By December 2014, additional 1000 visas will likely be exhausted

## AFGHANI REFUGEES IN USA

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